

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. A joint Polish-Czech agency for chemical industries in the Krakow district in Poland and the Ostrava basin in Czechoslovakia began functioning on 1 January 1955. This agency, which has its headquarters in Prague, is independent of the State Economic Planning Commission (PKPG) for Polish national economy.
2. The responsibility of the new agency is to coordinate the chemical industries of the two countries, to develop and enlarge efficient plants, and to close down plants in one country which are less efficient than those in the other country. While some coordination already existed between Poland and Czechoslovakia, it has been principally in the coal industry.
3. One result of the agency's functioning has been the closing down of the coke and synthetic fuel departments at the Oswiecim chemical plant and the increased production of carbide and Metanor, a special aviation fuel. Production of coke and synthetic fuel was discontinued because it was unprofitable to use coal as a base. Raw oil is plentiful, and the production of coke and synthetic fuel is better and less costly in Czechoslovakia than in Poland.

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